



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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August 25, 2003

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**SAN ANTONIO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO
MURDER IN BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that 23-year-old John Michael Baker pled guilty to second degree murder.

Appearing this morning before United States District Judge Robert Junell in Midland, Texas, Baker admitted that in February 2000, he killed Shannon Stewart Roberts and buried his body in the Big Bend National Park. According to the factual basis filed in this case, Baker admitted to using a rope to choke the victim to death. On March 31, 2000, the victim's decomposed body, which had been partially unearthed by animals, was discovered by a Border Patrol agent.

Baker, who remains in federal custody, faces up to life in federal prison. Sentencing is scheduled for 8:30am on November 13, 2003.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Parks Service and Texas Rangers. Assistant United States Attorney Gary Tromblay is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

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